



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2005

File No. 636

Senate Bill No. 1038

Senate, May 3, 2005

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17a-126 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2005*):

4 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish a
5 program of subsidized guardianship for the benefit of children in the
6 care or custody of the commissioner who are living with relative
7 caregivers and who have been in foster care or certified relative care
8 for not less than eighteen months. The commissioner, within available
9 appropriations, may establish a program of subsidized guardianship
10 for the benefit of children in the care or custody of the commissioner
11 who are living with relative caregivers and who have been in foster
12 care or certified relative care for not less than [twelve] six but not more
13 than eighteen months. A relative caregiver may request a guardianship

14 subsidy from the commissioner. If adoption of the child by the relative
15 caregiver is an option, the commissioner shall counsel the caregiver
16 about the advantages and disadvantages of adoption and subsidized
17 guardianship so that the decision by the relative caregiver to request a
18 subsidized guardianship may be a fully informed one.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	17a-126(b)

<i>KID</i>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	HS
<i>HS</i>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	APP
<i>APP</i>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>	

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Revenue	20,050 -	53,500 -
	Loss	40,125	107,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

An estimated 25 - 50 additional children will be deemed eligible for the Department of Children and Families' (DCF's) subsidized guardianship program given passage of this bill. It reduces from twelve to six months the minimum time period that a child must spend in foster care prior to being eligible for consideration for transition to guardianship status. As of January 2005, a total of 1,132 children were placed in relative foster care and 1,352 children were receiving subsidized guardianship payments. No cost impact will result since DCF-paid subsidized guardianship rates are equivalent to those paid to foster families.

Federal financial participation (fifty percent) ceases for Title IV-E eligible foster children when they are accepted into the subsidized guardianship program. This will result in an estimated annual revenue loss to the state of between \$53,500 - \$107,000 based upon an anticipated average annual benefit of \$9,277 and Title IV-E eligibility of forty-six percent. The FY 06 revenue loss would be expected to be less than the annualized amount, as a phase-in period for enrollment is expected.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1038

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP**SUMMARY:**

This bill makes relative guardians eligible, at the agency's discretion, for the Department of Children and Families' higher subsidized guardianship rate after they have cared for the child for six months. Current law requires them to have cared for the child for at least one year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

BACKGROUND***Subsidized and Unsubsidized Guardianship Rates***

Certified relative caregivers receive monthly payments from the state of approximately \$333 for the first child in their care, and between \$50 and \$100 for each additional child.

Relatives in the subsidized guardianship program receive monthly payments of between \$680 and \$780 per child.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 12 Nay 0

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 16 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 50 Nay 0